7/18/75

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your kind letter of the 16th.

For the moment I'll skip the McDonald part to be able to respond promptly. I'm doing some writing for a short addition to Post Mortem when I can find the time.

I know now that I'll have to allow 20 pages for the index. My wife has it typed. I'll have to add a little from this new close and from the appendix.

The FOIA suit went as I expected only the judge was a little more brazen in his contempt for crime, the law and the appeals court. While I think it might have been impossible for him to rule other than he did, I do think there might have been other benefits if the Establishment Liberals and the press had not totally boycotted the first case under the amended act, one of the cases that caused the amending.

While there are and will be other costs, by using this new process and thinner, cheaper paper (required in any even for this process by the size of the book) it looks as though the basic cost will be about $7,500 for a 5,000 print. The quality of the samples is good except that the half-tones are flatter. Actually, because this is so much less than I'd expected from my earlier experiences, including the most recent, I plan to make the book as thick as the binding porcess permits and stay under two pounds, an important mailing cost.

I'll use this extra space to include other documents that ought to be printed.

Beginning the first of the year, when it appeared that the first and third of the Whitewash series were going to be exhausted first, we put aside all ~~income~~ gross income from them except for emergencies and the costs other than printing of Whitewash IV. As a result we are more than half way to the cost of printing Post Mortem, but at jeopardy to the reprinting of the other two. For this amount that may be even less by the time I can print I'd risk more debt.

I suppose we have had to tap a little of it. I don't handle the books. We are doing our best to make out on my wife's small retirement of about $100 a month.

I do appreciate your efforts. But I hate to accept something from someone who has to work for a living. If there is no alternative, to get the book out when it is more important than before I would and will. I'd feel much better if I were selling some ancillary rights (I'm still trying). Maybe I'll want to get what I'm short instead of going to the bank again. And if I do it this way I sure would appreciate backstopping if and when the reprinting of the other two becomes necessary.

We put 100% of the gross from Whiteash IV toward paying off the loan Lesar made to pay the printer for that and we've done that and just sent the artist a check for toward paying for the cover. Because Lesar just became a father we've paid back what other expenses he had and when the time comes we'll take back the for us not inconsiderable costs we've advanced from the sale of the earlier books.

It was the hard way but we're doing it. The book is now selling itself. I've not made a broadcast on it for months nor has there been a news story. In fact, it is selling despite the best efforts of about all the other so-called critis. Those who get attention pretend it is their own work and (the transcripts that is) or that it was disclosed as a government kindness. I know of no case of any one of them selling a single copy for me by a mention that had meaning. The forced footnote in Rolling Stone sold I think two copies. It is remarkable how the word gets around. It will do better when the new Books in Print appears with it listed.

I understand that O(Toole in the current Penthouse makes on it is just an accident. Both, of course, know better. Penthouse tried to latch onto it under conditions a pauper couldn't accept and in a deal that meant withholding indefinitely plus cutting it up. In fact, they haven t returned that copy and we've tried to get it. Needed it in an effort that probably wouldn't have succeeded to sell ancillary rights. Had only one copy!

We have adjusted as best one can to living this way. Imagine having to save the nominal cost of xeroxing only because money is that tight. And none of the big-talkers to help.

So, if there are no emergencies, we can probably swing Post Mortem, maybe with a little help. There is an urgency now because of all the different situations, one being the continued destruction of all credibility by the nuts and self-seekers.

I am aware that what I am talking about does not include otther and enormous costs over the years and no return for all this work. But I guess I've adjusted so much to that situation I didn t think of it.

Other problems include all the work I have to do myself. On the book it is all the makeup. I'll still have all the anotating to do, too, and some of the appendix ought to have it. It accumulates and prevents other work no matter how long the day.

Anyway, with all I'm making fair progress in getting the new close on paper, It will include new information, the only purpose of it. When I see how much space that takes when retyped and on the right paper for reduction I'll know close to exactly how much the appendix will hold. Meanwhile, while this is being retyped I'll be able to put together that documents I'm certain have to be included. This will speed it up some.

However, we now have, within the next month, two major appeals to get done. One in the Ray case I'm leaving pretty much to Jim except for the help he asks for. He is the lawyer and he now has an excellent command of fact. We'll have a hard job to do on the case just decided partly because it is precedent and partly from the need to perfect the best possible record.

This is one way of saying that I can't give a schedule and can't make one. I'm going to work as fast as I can but it won t be overnight. I have a young friend in his first year of law school who I taught to do some makeup but he is in Florida and has the summer job he needs, so I don't know anyone I can get to help with the mechanical part. This means some delay that otherwise could be avoided.

The belt process is a more automated offset process in which printing is done from a continuous belt on a roll of paper rather than on sheets. There is a limit to the possible length of the belt and to the width of the paper. But it is all automated, which reduces the cost enormously. It uses 12-page signatures rather than the standard 32s or units of 16s in the old way. I've forgotten the thickness limit but it is under 2 ~~pounds~~ inches. The cost of adding pages in this system seems to be considerably less per page.

If any of the people to whom you talk have other interests and they get near here they can see this. I can t even get the copy back from Playboy! I wrote for it again and they sent a secondhand copy of Whitewash IV instead!

I think the trouble with the farm is the typical malfunction of government today, no more. You might call it liberal authoritarianism.

Brouty is quite undependable and has hurt a decent reporter very much. I find myself wondering how much is his character and how much could have been inspired. I have found no reason to change my original opinion: he is the military's answer to CIA.

I guess the big question with Mac is who is putting up the money, who if anyone is behind this fraud (it irrefutably is)- who if anyone else is in it with him.

Hope I've answered everything. And thanks.